

HONORING THE SOUTH SIDE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the South Side Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These fireman must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R.—, TO EXTEND COMMUNITY NURSING CENTER DEMONSTRATIONS

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, as a strong supporter of home- and community-based services for the elderly and individuals with disabilities, I rise to introduce legislation to extend the demonstration authority under the Medicare Program for community nursing organizations [CNO].

In 1987, Congress authorized the CNO demonstrations to test the efficacy of capitated nursing delivery organizations at providing quality services outside the nursing home setting, without requiring beneficiaries to join HMO's. CNO programs serve Medicare beneficiaries in home and community-based settings under contracts that provide a fixed, monthly capitation payment for each beneficiary who elects to enroll.

The benefits include not only Medicare-covered home care and medical equipment and supplies, but other services not presently covered by traditional Medicare, including patient education, case management and health assessments. CNO's are able to offer extra benefits without increasing Medicare costs because of their emphasis on primary and preventative care and their coordinated management of the patient's care.

At the end of this year, current authority will expire for these effective and growing pro-

grams, which currently serve approximately 6,000 Medicare patients in four States.

Mr. Speaker, we need to act now to extend this demonstration authority for another 3 years. This experiment provides an important example of how coordinated care can provide additional benefits without increasing Medicare costs. For Medicare enrollees, extra benefits include expanded coverage for physical and occupational therapy, health education, routine assessments, and case management services—all for an average monthly capitation rate of about \$21. In my home State of Minnesota, the Health Seniors Project is a CNO serving over 1,500 patients in four sites, two of which are urban and two rural.

These demonstrations should also be extended in order to ensure a full and fair test of the CNO managed care concept. These demonstrations are consistent with our efforts to introduce a wider range of managed care options for Medicare beneficiaries. I believe we need more time to evaluate the impact of CNO's on patient outcomes and to assess their capacity for operating under fixed budgets.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize that the extension of this demonstration will not increase Medicare expenditures for care. CNO's actually save Medicare dollars by providing better and more accessible care in home and community settings, allowing beneficiaries to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations and nursing home admissions. By demonstrating what a primary care oriented nursing practice can accomplish with patients who are elderly or disabled, CNO's are helping show us how to increase benefits, save scarce dollars, and improve the quality of life for patients.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to consider this bill carefully and join me in seeking to extend these cost-savings and patient-enhancing CNO demonstrations for another 3 years.

REMEMBERING THE GENOCIDE OF THE ARMENIANS

SPEECH OF

HON. CARLOS J. MOORHEAD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] for arranging this special order today. His support of the Armenian community has been, and continues to be tremendous.

Today we mark the 81st anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian genocide. On this date in 1915 hundreds of Armenian political and intellectual leaders were rounded up, exiled, and eventually murdered in remote places. In the ensuing 8 years, over 1.5 million men, women, and children were slaughtered in an attempted genocide of the Armenian people by the Government of the Ottoman Empire. This was a crime not just against the Armenian people. It was a crime against humanity. We must never forget this tragedy of unimaginable proportions.

I have friends who were present during that time. One friend of mine was turned over to a Turkish family by his own mother and father. He then had to endure watching the systematic murder of every single member of his family as well as the killing of many from his community. These kinds of unspeakable atrocities were commonplace in Armenia between 1915 and 1923.

A strong, resilient people, the Armenians survived these cruelties as they have survived persecution for centuries. Their descendants now include over 1 million Americans for whom marking this day is not only a way to remember those who perished, but a way to remind mankind that we must all come together in pursuit of a common goal: to see to it that slaughter of this size and scope has no chance of ever happening again.

Unfortunately, brutality against Armenians continues to this day. The current conflict with Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabagh region has once again brought suffering to the Armenian people. It is my sincere hope that the U.S. Government will do whatever it can to aid in the reaching of peace. Karabagh Armenians currently under the rule of the Azerbaijani Government must have their rights protected.

Today in America, Armenians flourish in the United States as prominent citizens and community leaders despite the pain they and their ancestors have endured. Many survivors of the genocide now live in my district. In fact, in my district, I have the greatest concentration of Armenians outside of Armenia. Armenians serve proudly and with great distinction as mayors, and members of local councils and school boards.

It is with great pride that I have had the chance to serve the Armenian citizenry of my district. On this, my last opportunity as a Member of Congress to observe this day, I wish to thank the Armenian community for its support.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 735, ANTITERRORISM AND EFFECTIVE DEATH PENALTY ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support S. 735, the antiterrorism bill. When H.R. 2703 the House counterpart bill passed the House on March 14, 1996, I voted against it largely because of the severe restrictions on the writ of habeas corpus for death row prisoners. I voted "no" to signal the Senate to strike this section from the bill. Unfortunately they did not.

Other unacceptable invasions of personal privacy in H.R. 2703 eliminated by amendment in the House were not restored by the Senate in conference.

In the current era of threats and acts of domestic terrorism I believe that the Government needs greater authority to act to prevent and apprehend terrorists before they act. However, we must be careful not to create a state where illegal surveillance, spying, wiretapping, and electronic eavesdropping become instruments of violations of rights of privacy of lawful citizens.

It is a fine line between law enforcement and a free society. But however fine, it must be distinguishable.

We must guard against foreign terrorists in particular. These individuals must not be allowed to pervade our open society with seeds